

what you call — surely you have got it in journalism too — a trade-secret.

**Q.** One other specific item. I wondered if a certain Canadian who was in Tehran until fairly recently, I believe who worked for Staedler-Herder — I think you know to whom I am referring.

**A.** Yes.

**Q.** Is he still in Tehran?

**A.** The individual referred to had a contested tax problem with the Iranian government, but just before we were to leave, I believe that was resolved, and I think he is on his way out.

**Q.** On his way out, or still there?

**A.** He may well be out by now. It would seem to me he was going to be out by the next day or two.

**Q.** Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, on a d'abord pensé que les six Américains avaient couru, s'étaient échappés de l'ambassade des Etats-Unis le 4 novembre et avaient couru directement à l'ambassade du Canada. Vous nous dites maintenant qu'ils ont téléphoné le première fois le 8 novembre pour vous aviser que leur situation était difficile et ils vous ont rappelé une seconde fois le 10 novembre, c'est-à-dire six jours après la prise des otages à l'ambassade américaine.

Voudriez-vous nous dire ce qu'ils ont fait? Es-ce qu'ils se sont adressés à d'autres ambassades pendant ces six jours et comment se fait-il que vous n'avez pas répondu favorablement à leur demande des le 8 novembre?

**A.** Two parts to that. There was a favourable reply on November 8. The only aspect that was lacking at that time was the commitment which was certain, I anticipated, of the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for External Affairs. They did not, however, seek a total commitment November 8. They said they were free from the embassy. They had temporary lodging, but they would not feel safe to be there longer than say the coming weekend. At that point, we asked them to be certain to phone back by Friday or Saturday at which time we would be able to give them directions and instructions.

**Q.** Vous n'avez pas répondu, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, à la première partie de ma question qui était: est-ce qu'à votre connaissance entre le 4 novembre et le 8 novembre ils s'étaient adressés à d'autres ambassades qu'à la vôtre?

**A.** Most of the time, essentially pretty well all the time from the sixth to say the tenth, they were in an uninhabited bungalow. It may have been they were contemplating asking for sanctuary at another embassy, but I say this with good certainty, I do not think that they asked any other embassy for full-fledged sanctuary. It is possible they may have asked them for some nature of assistance or possibly a haven for a day or two. But that is the extent of their involvement or, I think, contemplation of seeking asylum or sanctuary in another embassy.

**Q.** Back to that phone call and the possibility I guess, that it was Iranian. Is it possible that the Iranian authorities knew of this or had some inkling in any way, and were prepared to give it benign neglect?

**A.** Yes, I think it may well be possible. At no time did an Iranian official approach me and say "we understand there are six American staff who are still in Tehran". I think that possibly (there is some suggestion that this was the case, but it never came out) the clergy who visited December 24 were aware that there were six outside the compound.

**Q.** Mr. Ambassador, were there at any time any communications between Ottawa and your embassy in Tehran concerning the advisability of any further action on the part of Canada to show support for United States diplomatic or economic activity? And so, what was your recommendation?

**A.** I was in, again, constant touch with External Affairs both on the basis of my own assessment and talking with colleagues as to how to bring an end to confrontation, and I think any number of approaches going from a very conciliatory one to somewhat stern measures were advanced. But I think I was, again, really doing the same job as anyone else; and that "how do you resolve the situation". There are a number of measures that I think have been outlined to do so.

**Q.** Did the government do exactly what you recommended?

**A.** I can't recall any time over, say, since November 4, that there was a conflict between what I would propose myself or in terms of what guidance or counsel Ottawa would send back.

**Q.** Mr. Taylor, I would like to know in as much detail as you can provide about the nature of the identities assigned to the Americans. You mentioned that they were technically visitors. Were they given the identities of real Canadians, falsified names, and what professions were they supposed to have, and what was the status of their presence?

**A.** No, they were not given real Canadian names. Then you could say, well, were they given real American names. But, again, I don't mean to back away from the question, but I am really not in a position to say.

**Q.** You can't say what professions they were given on their passports?

**A.** Not right now.

**Q.** Or whether they were visitors, tourists, relatives, staff members?

**A.** No. I think that is as far as I can go.

**Q.** Just a quick one before I ask my question. Following on that one. Was it a diplomatic passport?

**A.** No.

**Q.** My question has to do with the timing, sir, of your decision to get the Americans out of there. At what point did you decide that you couldn't wait for the